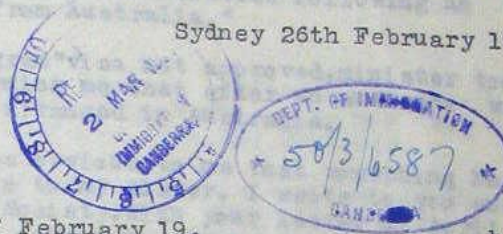


C. K. BLISS, B.Sc.

5 Maroubra Bay Road, Pagewood, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

19AB
Sydney 26th February 1951

The Secretary
Department of Immigration
Canberra, A.C.T.



Re: No. 50/3/6587, Your letter of February 19,
Reconsideration of application for the admission of my sister and/son her

Dear Sir,

Please accept my thanks for your communication. I had in mind to write to you, if not for any other reason than to have my statement added to your file. After our interview I was crestfallen. My general impression was, that someone has made a malicious and false accusation in order to make my sister lose her landing permit. Knowing my sister well, a woman interested only in things womanly, I was appalled at the prospect, and the rest of my vacation was hopelessly spoiled for me and my wife. I realise however that you are doing your duty according to your instructions, and I feel grateful for your willingness to reconsider the case. I beg you therefore to give the following statement your careful consideration.

I had in mind to send you this statement in the form of a Statutory Declaration, because it contains the truth and nothing but the truth. I am prepared to repeat it before a Justice of the Peace and to furnish additional proof for anything said here. I am sorry that this letter will be a long one, but I don't know the charge or the reason, and therefore I am going to say, whatever I think might be relevant to the whole case. A few words how the case started and developed might be appropriate.

I.

The Permit C 2060 (N 48/3/599) was granted on the 5th May 1948. When it arrived in Palestine the Israeli authorities did not permit anyone to emigrate. After nearly two years of continuous effort my sister obtained finally the exit permit. There was only one ship available, which would arrive in Australia before the expiration of the permit.

Having no money for the fare, I obtained an additional mortgage on the house in which we live. I booked two berths and sent a number of telegrams to ensure her sailing in time. Then came the thunderbolt.

A telegram arrived from my sister, saying that the Australian Consul told her "that my case must be reconsidered following an information list here received from Australia."

Then came the second telegram "visa not approved, minister took away permit." Then the third, informing me that after an audience with the minister, the matter must be arranged in Australia.

From these telegrams it was obvious to me that something has happened in Canberra, unfavourable to my sister. I wrote to you and so did Mr. Brand of the Welfare Society. With your letter of April, 21 you informed me that the landing permit has been cancelled.

II.

Naturally my sister and myself, and the whole family here in Australia were thrown in utter consternation. I consulted a great many people about the possible cause of the cancellation. All of them said, there could only be one cause: security reasons. We speculated that the fact, that my sister came from Roumania, a country now behind the iron curtain, may perhaps be the cause.

But my sister fled from Roumania more than 8 years ago. Moreover I learned that other people from Israel and Roumania were permitted into Australia. Why then not my sister? There was another possibility. Someone must have made a false and malicious denunciation. But I dismissed this idea.

That was nearly a year ago. I had accustomed myself to the fact that my sister could not come here for the present. She wanted to come here, because the whole family is here and she is there alone. Furthermore life there had become very difficult, and I had to send many food parcels to keep her and her young son going.

When my vacation came, I decided to visit your department. My general impression of my interview was consternating. Indeed the only conclusion I could form was, that there must be a personal charge against my sister, perhaps an anonymous letter.

Back in Sydney I consulted the Welfare Society, where I heard that there were some rumours about people sending anonymous letters in acts of personal vengeance against prospective newcomers.

One incident of our interview is engraved in my mind. Realising that the department does not disclose reasons, I told you, that the only possible reason ^{may} be, that my sister came from my Roumania, a country now behind the iron curtain. Later you asked me how long I haven't seen my sister. I said, since 1937. You remarked that this means 14 years, and that I could not know how she thinks now. This was your answer to my pleas that my sister was never interested in politics.

I shall therefore offer all proofs that my sister is wrongly accused and suspected, and I hope that you will give me an opportunity

to submit to you the proofs about the statements made in the following paragraphs.

III.

It all amounts to the suspicion that my sister may be pro-Russian. But this thought is phantastic for anyone who knows how much my sister and our whole family have suffered from the Russians.

Our hometown Czernowitz in the Bukowina was Austrian. In the first World War, the Russians invaded it three times. My father had an optical workshop. They robbed it and requisitioned all binoculars, in fact anything which caught their fancy. After the third invasion my father died. It was clear for all of us, that the great climax of anxiety and fear in a town, which changed hands 6 times with bombardments, fire and looting, has hastened his death.

When the war was over, the Roumanians took the town. I remained an Austrian and went to live in Vienna until Hitler took it in 1938. My mother, two brothers and my sister stayed where their livelihood was and became automatically Roumanian citizens. Czernowitz became

Cernauti. When one of my brothers married, and I realised that the small workshop would not sustain another family, I gave him all my life savings to buy a second shop. My sister had married too, and her husband had installed a workshop, making embroidered tablecloths, etc.

In the course of World War II the Russians took the town again. This time however, my two brothers, my sister and her husband were "Capitalists". My sister's husband could close his small workshop being unconspectuously up some storeys in a dwelling. But my brothers' shops, being in the main street, were confiscated and became state property. My brothers were penniless, and my life savings, being invested in one shop, were lost too.

Capitalists could not get work and ration cards. After great tribulation and help by kindly people who knew our family, they got work. Then the Germans attacked.

The Russians withdrew, applying the "scorched earth" policy. They burned down, among others, the houses where our shops were. They called up all young and able-bodied men and took them away, among them my sister's husband. Later on, the family learned that the Germans overtook them, arrested him and put him to death.

I had my own trouble in Austria. I was thrown with thousands of others into the concentration camps of Dachau and then Buchenwald. It was a British permit which effected my release. Meanwhile, the Germans and Roumanians turned against the Jews in Cernauti and against my family. One of my brothers was sent to a forced labour camp. The other, (a cripple), his wife, my mother and her sister were forced into a Ghetto, awaiting deportation. Mother's sister, a medical doctor, took poison.

My sister fled with her child to Palestine. But the others of my family had not the fare for those unseaworthy coastal vessels which carried desperate refugees. The ship foundered off the Turkish coast. My sister and her child were brought to Cyprus and later were admitted into Palestine, penniless and with all belongings lost.

Meanwhile the course of the war changed. The Russians took the town again. The Roumanian King turned pro-Allied. My family had a chance to flee from the Russians into democratic Roumania. But my ~~first~~ brother had died in the meantime, and some other members of our larger family had perished too.

My mother died 75 years of age. But she died peacefully in the firm belief that now the whole family will be united with her in Australia. She had with her at the time of her death your Landing Permit No. 49030, File 46/3/222 dated 23, December 1946 issued for Jeanette Blitz.

I shall ever be grateful to you, to the Department of Immigration, and to Australia that my old mother had in her hands your Landing Permit as a tangible proof that now the horrors are over and she will come to Australia with my brother Heinrich Blitz, his wife and child, and the widow of my elder brother, (all of them had Landing Permits) and that her daughter and child will join us too.

This time, it was I who, with great sorrow had to cancel the Landing Permit of my mother. But I have still her letters, in which she expressed her joy about the family being reunited in Australia.

As soon as my brother Heinrich Blitz, his wife and child and the widow of my second brother arrived in Australia, I made preparations to bring my sister and her orphan child from Palestine. I applied for a Landing Permit, which was granted, and then cancelled.

In the face of all those terrible hardships caused directly and indirectly by the Russians, it is impossible for anyone, who knows now the whole story, to think that my sister could be pro-Russian. The very contrary is the truth. As a child of 6 years of age, she learned the horrors of war impersonified by Russians. Such childhood memories are ineradicable. Then the Russians were responsible for the loss of her husband and her livelihood, and indeed for all the miseries which followed for a lone widow with a small child. How could she ever be sympathetic to Russia?

III.

Now you know the whole story, and I shall submit all proofs that the story as told is true, if you should desire additional proofs. It remains now to prove that my sister was never interested in any politics whatsoever, and indeed is not interested at all in any idea outside of ordinary woman's interests.

Is it possible to prove how a person thinks? It is impossible in a totalitarian country where everyone has to chant the official doctrine or be doomed. But in a free country such compulsion does not exist. No one need to hide behind a mask. Everyone can speak his mind freely.

Consequently in a circle of friends everyone knows pretty well how all the others think with regard to vital domestic or political topics. There is one who is only interested in cricket, or in stamp-collecting, and there are others very much interested in political debates, and each one has his pet plan, his pet idea, his pet remedy.

Furthermore in a free country there is no censorship of letters. Consequently everyone can write freely to friends what he or she thinks. And the world issues being of such vital and burning importance today, hardly could an intelligent person be found, who, in writing to a friend would not add a sentence or two about the sorry state of affairs in the world. Should one be a so-called "fellow traveller", and actively interested to win people to his political ideology, he will hardly let an opportunity pass without voicing the usual slogans.

Now Australia and Israel are such free countries. Consequently the letters exchanged between persons could present a fair and truthful reflections of the letter-writers' minds. I beg therefore to submit to you the complete correspondence with my sister of the last 5 years and more. The letters she has written and the copies of my letters. There is not one indication of my sister being interested in anything more than her personal and domestic troubles and well-being. Indeed sometimes I wished that my sister should be a bit more intelligent and less womanly. Her letters are full of nagging and complaining. She makes the whole world responsible for her personal misfortune, she accuses the members of the family of not doing enough for her and her child. There is nothing, nothing whatsoever in all her letters to indicate that she has the slightest interest in anything political.

And here is another and important proof. The whole family is here, eleven adults apart from the children. Family members often talk about other family members, and it is a well known fact, that no secret can be kept or exist about and between the members of a family. All the members of my family are ready to testify before a Justice of the Peace and indeed before any Judge that never was there any mention about Donia (the nickname for Sidonie) having any political opinion or being interested in anything political. Indeed we all know her to be womanly, all too womanly, and the idea that she says anything political, seems to all of us absurd.

There are some friends of the family in Australia who are from the same town and who know my sister for decades. If you should desire it, I shall approach them and I am sure that they too would testify that she was never interested in anything political. I believe that such testimony as offered above should be strong circumstantial evidence in favour of my sister, and would satisfy any judge.

Throughout their adolescent years, I have constantly moulded their minds, their attitudes towards life, etc.

IV.

As said before I do not know the reason why the permit of my sister was cancelled. It may well be that there is no personal charge against her, and that the cancellation followed a general instruction to review and withdraw a number of permits in a tightening of admission principles. It may well be, that the fact that my sister came from Roumania, was the decisive factor to put her on a list.

But it might also be that a malicious accusation, anonymous or not anonymous, has reached the department. Such a possibility can only be taken into account if there exist a person who is an enemy of my sister and who is unscrupulous enough to make a false accusation.

Unfortunately such a person exists, a woman who through past acts has brought great sorrow to my mother and the family. But she has emphatically denied to have anything to do with this case, and therefore this lead must be dropped.

Now you are interested that the truth be revealed, and if my sister has been innocently accused, that justice should prevail. I would therefore say that I am prepared to file a suit on the ground of libel against the person who made the accusation, if the name of the person is revealed to me. Such a suit involves great risks, because if I fail to establish the innocence of my sister I am liable to pay heavy damages. But such risk does not exist - my sister is innocent.

If the letter is anonymous, there might be some indication from where it came.

I beg you, Sir, to review the above paragraphs with benevolent sympathy, realising that here is a man who gropes in the dark, and does not know how his sister came into disfavour, but does know only that she is innocent. I have mentioned the possibility of a letter, because I have heard that such letters reach the department. But as said before there may not be a personal charge at all, in which case you will forgive me and my speculations.

V.

It remains now one last proof, an indirect proof, but one which is often taken into account. All the persons who know me, my sister and our family will testify to the following:

Since the death of my father in 1917, that is for the last 34 years, I, the first born, have been father to my brothers and my sister. I myself never had children. This tended the more to devote all my fatherly feelings and urge of care and protection to my younger brothers and sister. And all who know me - and there are quite a number in Australia - will testify that throughout their life of my "adopted" children, and especially throughout their adolescent years, I have constantly moulded their minds, their attitudes towards life, etc.

Now if a person is accused and all the proofs with regard to this person are examined and exhausted, there is usually taken into account her family, the reputation of her father and the general upbringing. In this case, this refers to me.

I shall not bother you with testimonials from people from Germany. I have much stronger proof. As said before, a British permit saved me from the concentration camp. I was released in 1939 and came to England. Later when the war broke out, and Britain went through her greatest peril, with invasion imminent, aliens tribunals were set up, to investigate the past and screen very carefully every refugee in the country.

These tribunals classified the refugees in 3 groups. Those who might be a risk and should be interned. Those whose movements were restricted, and who were not allowed a radio, a bicycle, a camera, etc. And those whose integrity was fully established.

I am proud to say that in this screening process, carried out in Britain's most perilous hour, I was accorded the same freedom as any Englishman. I am ready to submit to you the judgement of this tribunal.

Furthermore I have with me a number of letters and testimonials written by high ranking men and women from Great Britain and the United States, whom I met and served in London and Shanghai, who have vouched for my integrity, and had found words of great praise for me.

Nearly a year ago, I informed you about my invention, a modern ideography which could be understood in all languages, and I sent you the favourable comment of world authorities such as Professor Lancelot Hogben (famous author of SCIENCE FOR THE CITIZEN, etc.) Professor Carleton Washburne of New York and others.

Meanwhile the circle of friends of my work has widened, and among other famous learned men, I count now as a friend one of the greatest men of the British race, and indeed one of the greatest men of our century, Earl Russell. He honours me with his correspondence, in which he repeats "my high opinion of your work", and "I think very highly of it" etc. He went even so far to state in writing that anyone who is going to help this work along, "will be performing an important service to mankind". These are his own words.

Lastly I am ready to name as witnesses scores of Australians who have come to know me and like me very much and scores of Newcomers, some of which do not like me - and both for the same reason. I have made a close comparison of conditions in various countries and I have constantly declared throughout the years, that Australia is the country with the best conditions in the world. Some newcomers are often dissatisfied and disgruntled, and when I meet such a person, I prove to him point for point that he is wrong, and that he should kneel down every morning and kiss the ground of this free and wonderful country.

This is so generally known among my acquaintances that I am often called upon to argue it out with some dissatisfied newcomers, even those who come from the British Isles. Just a week ago, I was called at the place of work and introduced to a young newcomer: "Here Charly, this Scotsman doesn't like Australia! Now you tell him!"

However I can't argue with people who show totalitarian tendencies. I have gone through German concentration camps, through Japanese segregation and my family has suffered cruelly at the hands of the Russians. Only fools and idiots, who are ignorant of all what happened in totalitarian countries, can be "fellow travellers" and I have no hesitation to call them by their names.

Again I can name scores of witnesses for all mentioned above. That my sister should be considered a "security risk" and not allowed into this country, is one of those queer tricks of fate, but I hope fervently that justice will prevail and the permit will be re-instated.

This has been a long letter, but it reflects the innumerable hours in which I pondered about the fate of my sister, who has suffered most and who is now denied reunion with her family.

I beg now to ask whether I should submit as additional proofs the following documents, already mentioned in foregoing pages:

- (1) Statutory Declaration of myself about the relevant passages of this letter.
- (2) Statutory Declaration of the members of my family testifying that my sister was never interested in anything political.
- (3) Statutory Declaration of people who were in Gernauti and can testify to the happenings, mentioned in this letter.
- (4) The complete correspondence of my sister of the last 5 years.
- (5) Statutory Declaration of people who know my sister, and are not members of the family.
- (6) Judgement of the British Aliens Tribunal 1939 about my person, letters, testimonials of British and American highranking persons, declarations of Australian citizens with regard to the facts mentioned on the last and the foregoing page.

Lastly I wish to say, that there are uncertainties with every newcomer. There are even Ukrainians and Russians among new arrivals. I hope that the offered proofs will satisfy you that she is no risk. I offer a bond and guarantee by myself and Australian citizens with regard to my sister, and her young son of 14 years of age, who I am sure will make a good Australian.

Please excuse, if this long letter has tried your patience. The future happiness of two people are in your hands and I trust that you will help them. I remain with thanks in anticipation

Yours Sincerely

C. K. Bliss
C.K. Bliss

